

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, YE, SA
SUBJECT: SAUDI ATTITUDES TOWARD YARG

BEGIN SUMMARY: BRITISH SOURCE DISCUSSES RECENT
SAUDI-YAR EXCHANGES OVER TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND CONCLUDES
THAT SAUDI SUPPORT FOR SHAYKHS HAS PLUMMETED IN
LAST TWO MONTHS. TROUBLES IN NORTH ARE NOT LIKELY TO HALT COMPLETELY
IN NEAR TERM, SOURCE CONCLUDES, WITHOUT SAUDI BACKING HOWEVER,
DISSIDENTS ARE LIKELY TO COLLAPSE AFTER A FEW MORE GOOD SHOVS BY
CENTRAL GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. OFFICIAL BRITISH SOURCE WHO DISCUSSED YEMENI AFFAIRS ASK LENGTH
ON SEPTEMBER 8 WITH SAUDI PRINCE TURKI --- WHO WAS AT THAT TIME
STILL NUMBER TWO MAN IN KAMAL ADHAM'S OFFICE --- SAYS THAT SAUDIS
HAVE MADE DECISIVE STEPS TO CUT THEIR TIES TO TRIBES.

2. AT TIME OF TALK ABDALLAH BIN HUSAYN AL-AHMAR WAS IN TAIF ALONG
WITH SAUDI MILITARY ATTACHE IN SANA HALIH HUDDAYAN AND YAR
MINISTER OF INTERIOR MUHSIN AL-YUSIFI. YUSIFI'S OFFER WAS
ENERGIC, ACCORDING TO TURKI: A MINISTERIAL POST FOR ABDALLAH,
WITH A BUDGET AND SOME AUTHORITY IN NORTH IN EXCHANGE FOR DISBANDMENT

OF ABDALLAH'S "BRIGADE" OF TRIBAL SOLDIERS AND ANY OTHER RESTRAINT
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TO CENTRAL GOVERNMENT ACTIVITY IN NORTH GOVERNMENT, IN ADDITION,
WOULD PLEDGE LARGE SUMS TO DEVELOPMENT IN NORTH AND EVEN HOLD NEW
ELECTIONS FOR PARLIAMENT.

3. ABDALLAH WOULDN'T ACCEPT, ACCORDING TO TURKI.
HE WANTED MORE PRESTIGIOUS POST AND AGREEMENT TO RECONVENE OLD,
TRIBALLY-ORIENTED PARLIAMENT.

4. BRITISH SOURCE NOTED THAT HAMDI HAD GONE TO YNUDI ARABIA ON 9 SEPTEMBER SECRETLY TO TRY TO PUSH THROUGH AGREEMENT. AFTERWARDS CERTAIN YARG OFFICIALS IN SANA WERE OPTIMITIMIC THAT REBELLION IN NORTH WOULD BE RROUND UP BEFORE 26TH SEPTEMBER.

5. TURKI WAS HIMSELF OPTIMISTIC AT TIME OF 8 SEPTEMBER TALK WITH BRITISH OFFICIAL. HE SAID TWO DECISIVE STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY SAUDIS IN EXCHANGES WHICH INVOLVED YAR PRESIDENT, PRINCE SULTAN, AND ABDALLAH BIN HUSAYN. FIRST, PRINCE KHALP BIN SUDAIRI, GOVERNOR OF NAJRAN WHO HAD RUN YEMENI SHAYKHS ALL THROUGH CIVIL WAR AND AFTERWARDS, WAS CUT OUT OF TALKS FOR THE FIRST TIME. SECOND, SAUDIS HAD DECIDED TO REPLACE SUDAIRI AMBASSADOR TO YEMEN WITH MILITARY OFFICER, COLONEL SALIH AL FA'ADI, WHO WAS MILITARY ATTACHE IN SANA AT TIME HAMDI CAME TO POWER IN 1974. SALIH WAS, ACCORDING TO TURKI, CLOSE PERSONAL FRIEND OF HAMDI AND KEY ELEMENT IN HIS SUCCESS IN 1974. SULTAN WAS MOVING SALIH FROM CHIEF OF MILIARY INTELLIGENCE --- A KEY POST IN KINGDOM --- AS A TOKEN OF NEW SAUDI DETERMINATION TO WORK OUT GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH HAMDI AND CENTRAL GOVERNMENT.

6. TURKI ADDED THAT HE HAD SOME DOUBTS ABOUT RAPVIOCHEMENT BETWEEN SULTAN AND HAMDI, SAYING THAT HAMDI JUST COULDN'T SEEM TO TELL THE TRUTH. "HOW CAN WE TRUST HIM?", SAID TURKI. IT MEANS NOTHING, SAID TURKI, TO THROW OUT TASS CORBEYLONSSENT WHEN SOVIET MILITARY MISSION REMAINS. "WHY DO THEY WANT THOSE MIG'S," ASKED TURKI,
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"WHEN WE HAVE RPOMISED THEM THAT WE WOULD FEND OFF ANY AIR ATTACK FROM SOUTH YEMEN?" AUBRITISH SOURCE SAYS HE REPLIED SIMPLY THAT AS LONG AS HAMDI HAS TRIBAL TROUBLES IN NORTH AND NEEDS SUPPORT OF HIS MILITARY, HE WON'T GIVE UP MIG'S FOR NOTHING.

AS FAR AS MILITARW MISSION IS CONCERNED, AMERICAN DELIVERIES SO FAR HAVE NOT INCLUDED MANY WEAPONS (AS OPPOSED TO HUGE NPZVERS OF VEHICLES) AND HAVE NOT GOTTEN INTO YEMENI HANDS IN ANY APPRECIABLE DEGREE. BRITISH SOURCE CONCLUDED THAT YEMENIS WEREN'T ABOUT TO DISPENSE WITH SOVIETS YET.

COMMENT: THIS REPORT MAKES IT CLEAR THAT SAUDIS ARE NOT INSISTING ON PRIVELEGES AND POSTS FOC SHAYKHS BEYOND WHAT YAR IS PREPARED TO GIVE. ABDALLAH BIN HUFAYN SEEMS MORE THAN EVERPISOLATED FROM HIS SAUDI FREINDS, WHO ARE MAKING FURTHER GESTURES OF SUPPORT TOWARD HAMDI. WE CAN CONFIRM THAT HAMDI LIKES AL-FA'ADI VERY MUCH. OUR BEST INFORMATION AT PRESENT IS THAT NORTH IS COMPLETELY QUIET BUT ABDALLAH IS STILL RECALCITRANT AND MANEUVERING AGAINST

GOVERNMENT. HE DOES NOT HAVE THE STRENGTH TO WITHSTAND THE GOVERNMENT LONG, HOWEVER, PARTICULARLY IF INCIDENTS OCCUR TO JUSTIFY GOVERNMENTAL ACTION AGAINST HIM.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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